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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SHEPARD, JUSTIN E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,773

Applicant(s)

KNUTSON ET AL.

Examiner

Justin E. Shepard

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/26/02.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim is written as a dependent claim, but the claim does not depend from another claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 (also claims 10 and 15) recites the limitation "frequency conversion error data" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Specifically, there is no mention of "frequency conversion" in the previous claims so there cannot be any error data from said "frequency conversion."

The claims will be examined with the interpretation that the limitation of the claim reads on frequency error correction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders in view of Godwin.

Referring to claim 1, Saunders discloses an outdoor unit for a satellite ground system comprising: downlink circuitry operative to receive satellite signals from a satellite (figure 1); and uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit (column 3, lines 49-52), process the received uplink signal, and provide the processed uplink signal to a satellite transmitting antenna (figure 2, part 254) when the downlink circuitry is frequency locked to signals from one of the satellite (column 6, lines 2-4).

Saunders does not disclose a system to process the first and second satellite television signals and provide the processed first and second satellite television signals to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system.

Godwin discloses, in an analogous art, a system to process the first and second satellite television signals (column 4, lines 4-5) and provide the processed first and second satellite television signals to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system (figure 4; column 3, lines 48-49).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to add the television broadcasting using multiple satellites, taught by Godwin, in the system disclosed by Saunders. The motivation would have been that using

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satellites to broadcast television is well known in the art, and using multiple satellites allows for more channels to be provided (Godwin: column 4, lines 6-7).

Note: Saunders does not disclose an outdoor or indoor units, but the units in the block diagram could be located indoors, outdoors, or some combination thereof.

Claims 6 and 11 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

Referring to claim 2, Saunders discloses an outdoor unit of claim 1, wherein the uplink circuitry is further operative to receive an uplink control signal (column 4, lines 61-62) indicating a frequency locked condition to signals from one of the first or second satellites from the indoor unit (column 4, lines 25-31).

Claims 7 and 12 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 2.

Referring to claim 3, Saunders discloses an outdoor unit of claim 2, wherein the uplink control signal comprises an uplink data signal and an uplink oscillator signal (column 5, lines 37-38).

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 3.

Referring to claim 4, Saunders discloses an outdoor unit (24) of claim 3, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from one of the first or second satellite television signals (column 5, lines 5-7).

Claims 9 and 14 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 4.

Referring to claim 16, Saunders discloses an outdoor unit of claim 7 where in the presence or the uplink data signal or uplink oscillator signal is required to enable the transmitter section or the outdoor unit (column 6, lines 6-9; figure 4c; Note: if the clocks are not synchronized the transmissions from will not be received correctly by the satellite, which is interpreted as being non-enabled).

Claim 17 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 16.

Claims 5, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders in view of Godwin as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Kwentus.

Referring to claim 5, Saunders discloses a system wherein error correction is performed on the oscillator signal (figure 2, parts 214, 222, and 226).

Saunders and Godwin do not disclose an outdoor unit, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from one of the first or second satellite television signals.

Kwentus discloses, in an analogous art, an outdoor unit, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from one of the first or second satellite television signals (paragraph 46, lines 2-3 and 6-9).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use frequency error data to synchronize the system clock, as taught by Kwentus, in the system disclosed by Saunders and Godwin. The motivation would have

been that the more accurate the system clock is, the more accurately the uplink data will be transferred.

Claims 10 and 15 are rejected on the same grounds as claim 5.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin E. Shepard whose telephone number is (571) 272-5967. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JS



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER